GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4544
ANSWERED ON:29.03.2017
Women Scientists
Nishank Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of women in the scientific laboratories and institutions in the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to attract girls towards science and technology from school level itself;

(c) whether there is any provision for providing special facilities for women scientists in laboratories/institutions keeping in view their domestic difficulties;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to increase the number of women scientists in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI.Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a) As per the latest Official Statistics available (2011-12), out of 1.93 lakh persons in Research & Development (R&D), there are 27,532 women scientists directly engaged in R&D activities at various research institutions, which constitute 14.3% of the total.

(b) Under the programme "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" there is a component called "INSPIRE Award" that aims to motivate students, both boys and girls, in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in class 6 to 10 to pursue science and a career in Research. This is in operation since the year 2009-10 and is implemented centrally through the States and Union Territories. (UTs). Till date 13.86 lakh INSPIRE Awards have been sanctioned and girls constitute 47% of the awardees.

(c) & (d): Yes Madam. Facilities like crÃ¨ches and residential quarters have been provided to women scientists in Autonomous Institutions of Department of Science & Technology.

(e) In the year 2014, Department of Science and Technology has restructured all the women specific programs under one umbrella called "KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing)". Women Scientist Scheme under KIRAN is meant for those women who had break in career primarily due to domestic responsibilities and it provides them the opportunity to return to mainstream. It has three components [Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A) to enable unemployed women scientists & technologists to pursue research in basic or applied sciences, Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) to address societal issues at the grassroots level and find appropriate S&T solutions, and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C) to extend alternative career option of wage/self-employment by training women in Intellectual Property Rights]. Another mandate of KIRAN is to develop and/or strengthen state-of-the-art R&D infrastructure in women-only universities that helps women to enhance their skills and knowledge in order to make a fulfilling career in S&T domain through an initiative called "CURIE (Consolidation of University Research for Innovation and Excellence in women universities)". Six (6) women-only universities have been supported so far. The enrollment of girl students in under-graduate and post-graduate has enhanced three-folds after CURIE support and it also cultivated and promoted research culture in these Universities which is evident by significant increase in Ph.D enrollment and also in National Eligibility Test (NET) and Graduate Aptitude Test for Engineering (GATE) qualification.

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